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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S. T-54 January 19, 1929

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

TOBACCO SITUATION IN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN EUROPE

Maintained or increased consumption is favored by the present situation with respect to tobacco in Central and Northern Europe, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from American Agricultural Commissioner L.V. Steere at Berlin. An increase in the prices of oriental, so-called Turkish tobacco, as a consequence of a short crop in the Near Eastern countries growing these types and of light stocks of better grades, may result in some increase in takings of American cigarette types in Holland and Scandinavian and Baltic countries, but will be of little significance for our trade elsewhere, in the opinion of Mr. Steere. Stocks of American tobaccos appear normal. Indications are that the 1928 European crop of cigar and pipe tobaccos is somewhat less than in 1927 and the total requirements for American dark tobaccos promise to be not less than last year.

Consumption of cigar and smoking tobacco in Germany in 1928 increased by 3 per cent and of cigarettes by 10 per cent over 1927, while consumption of snuff decreased 2 per cent and chewing tobacco decreased 9 per cent. The general situation in the German tobacco industry appears to be fairly stable but cigar business is quieter, according to Mr. Steere.

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January 31, 1929.

#### FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

#### INCREASED MARKET FOR AMERICAN FLUE-CURED TOBACCO IN CHOSEN (KOREA)

A gradual increase in the imports of flue-cured leaf tobacco from the United States to Chosen (Korea) is predicted by the Tobacco Monopoly of Chosen, according to a report from Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Some increase in the domestic flue-cured acreage, which is far behind the area devoted to native and Japanese varieties, is also expected, due to the increased demand for cigarettes made from this tobacco. The climatic and economic conditions, however, are unfavorable to the development of flue-cured tobacco production in Chosen.

Production of tobacco in Chosen may be broadly classified into two divisions: air and sun-cured leaf, constituting the bulk of the crop and about equally divided between native Korean and Japanese varieties; and flue-cured tobacco grown from American seed, according to Mr. Nyhus. The following table reveals an upward tendency in the planting of air and sun-cured leaf during recent years.

TOBACCO: Acreage and production in Chosen, 1924 to 1927

: Air and sun-cured leaf : Flue-cured leaf, American seed : : Yield : : Yield : Year : Area : per : Production: Area : per : Production : acre : : acre : : acre : : Acres : Pounds : Pounds : Acres : Founds : Founds : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :				
Year : Area : per :Production: Area : per :Production : acre : acre : acre : Founds	:	:Air and	sun-cured leaf :Flue-c	ured leaf, American seed
: acre : : acre : : acre : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	:	: :	Yield : :	: Yield :
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Source: Tobacco Monopoly of the Government General of Chosen.

The native varieties of air and sunccured leaf are used for rough cut smoking tobacco as distinguished from fine cut smoking tobacco manufactured from Japanese varieties for the small bowl Japanese pipe. Japanese varieties, however, are also used for rough cut smoking tobacco as well as in the manufacture of so-called "Russian cigarettes".

As in Japah, experiments and effort are being made to improve the quality of fluc-cured leaf grown from American seed. The color is fairly satisfactory but the leaf is lacking in character and body. Climatic conditions are far from favorable. The spring is dry and when rains finally come in July and August they are excessive, so that, combined with high temperatures in these two months, the leaf makes a rank growth. A leaf specialist of the Tobacco Monopoly who has studied in America also states that the cost of constructing a curing barn is a consideration for many Korean farmers, who are extremely poor and without marking funds. As a matter of fact, improvement in the agricultural technique in

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Chosen, advocated by the administration - such as the use of commercial fertilizers - have usually carried with them credits or financial subsidy of some sort, because the farmers are so completely destitute of working funds. An easy-going, indifferent attitude on the part of the Koreans further retards the adoption of improved methods which are the result of investigations of the Japanese controlled Experiment Station at Seoul. The yield per acre for flue-cured tobacco is very high and is explained by closer planting, ranker growth and leaving from twelve to seventeen leaves per plant.

#### Tobacco consumption and imports

The statistics for 1926 - the last fiscal year for which figures are published - indicate approximate consumption of tobacco in various forms. These figures, which do not include the leaf grown for home use, are as follows:

Rough cut smoking tobacco	 23,752,000	pounds
Fine cut smoking tobacco	 149,000	11
"Virginia cigarettes"	 10,563,000	d
"Russian cigarettes"	 2,237,000	II

The bulk of comsumption, it will be noted, is in the form of rough cut smoking tobacco used in the long stem, flat bowl pipe of the Koreans. A leisurely people, the Koreans seem to enjoy particularly their long stem pipes. Of the two varieties of rough cut manufactured, one is for cheap mass consumption and sells at 5 cents U. S. currency per package of 3-1/3 ounces. After 1929 the growing of tobacco for home use will not be permitted and sales of rough cut tobacco will undoubtedly show large gains. The Japanese pipe has a very small bowl and requires an extremely fine cut tobacco the consumption of which is very limited.

The so-called "Virginia cigarette" comes second in the magnitude of consumption, which increased from 2,040 millions in 1921 to 3,521 millions in 1926. The best seller in this group is the "Maple" which retails at 2.4 cents U. S. currency per package of fifteen. This cigarette is made almost entirely from native flue-cured tobacco without its being blended with imported leaf from America. There are two higher grades, the "Pidgeon" and the "Kaida" retailing for 5 and 7.5 cents per package of ten. These two brands contain about thirty and fifty per cent respectively of leaf imported from the United States. The American leaf, therefore, is utilized in the better grades of "Virginia cigarettes". The consumption of these grades is increasing, the Monopoly states, but the amount consumed is restricted by a low purchasing power on the part of the population. Purchases are made through two large Japanese import and export firms and the imports from America for the past fiscal years are as follows:

Year ending March 31	<u>Quantity</u>
	1,000 pounds
1924	766
1925	862
1926	1,051
1927	903

The Russian style cigarettes are not especially popular and their consumption is gradually declining. The Russians in Northern Manchuria smoke a cigarette with a long paper stem - the stem being about as long as the cigarette - and the term Russian, applied in Korea to similar long stem cigarettes, is a remnant, no doubt, of the times when, prior to the Russo-Japanese War,



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Russian influence was dominant in Korea. The bulk of consumption in Japan is also of this type of cigarette. The tobacco in these cigarettes is dry and untreated and of Japanese varieties.

Thina also constitutes an important source of supply of cigarette tobacco, the imports from that country in 1926 being three times as large as from the United States. Small quantities of leaf are also imported from Formosa, India and Manila and foreign cigarettes and pipe tobacco are purchased by the Monopoly to satisfy very limited outlets.

The administration of the tobacco business as a Government Monopoly was planned at an early date under the Japanese regime, but it was not until July, 1921, that the Tobacco Monopoly of Chosen was established. At that time there were some thirty firms manufacturing tobacco in various forms in Korea of which the East Asia Tobacco Company is reported to have done nearly eighty per cent of the business. The properties of these companies were purchased by the Government. When the Monopoly was inaugurated complete control was not immediately exercised over the manufacture of rough cut tobacco, the private sales of leaf tobacco, or the cultivation of tobacco for home use. These exemptions or exceptions to complete control, however, have gradually been done away with and after 1929 the entire control of growing, manufacturing, and distributing of tobacco will be in the hands of the Monopoly.

The Monopoly sells direct to appointed wholesale dealers - about 100 in number - who in turn distribute to licensed retail dealers numbering about 60,000 throughout Chosen. The Monopoly sells leaf tobacco, a variety of cigarettes, cut tobacco manufactured in its factories, and limited quantities of foreign tobaccos. The import duty is 355 per cent - the same as in Japan - and permits must be secured if tobacco is to be imported.

In its fiscal affairs the Tobacco Monopoly of Chosen is entirely independent of the Imperial Tobacco Monopoly of Japan but the similarity of administration and problems of the two Monopolies is quickly recognized by one who has previously investigated the Monopoly in Japan. In Chosen, however, prices and sales are restricted by a lower purchaising power than in Japan, and as tobacco production for home use has been permitted up to 1929, a part of the tobacco consumption has escaped the records of the Monopoly. Gross sales by the Monopoly for the last fiscal year were approximately \$15,000,000 of which \$5,000,000 was a net profit as a source of revenue to the Government General.

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Agricultural Economics Washington

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FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

March 5, 1929

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WORLD TOBACCO PRODUCTION IN 1928 AND PROSPECTS FOR 1929

Cigarette tobacco, of the types grown predominantly in the United States, showed increased production in 1928, with the exception of the Maryland tobacco, while the production of the so-called "Oriental" cigarette types, grown predominantly in the Balkans, Asia Minor and Southern Russia was smaller than in 1928, according to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Incomplete information points to a decreased supply of cigar types due to smaller or poorer crops in a number of cigar leaf producing countries, although quantitative data for some important countries are lacking. Production of American cigar types increased. There are indications that production in several of the countries growing tobacco similar to or competing with our so-called "dark" types, the fire-cured and dark aircured, was smaller in 1928 than during the preceding year. On the other hand production of all United States dark types, with the exception of Dark Virginia, showed an increase over last year.

Of the American cigarette types, production of flue-cured tobacco reached a new high record. Production of this type in foreign countries also increased, except in Southern Rhodesia, where a reduction in acreage is anticipated during the current season due to a marketing crisis. Foreign production of flue-cured tobacco, however, accounts for only an insignificant fraction of the world crop of this class. Moreover, foreign flue-cured leaf differs as a rule in quality from the tobacco of similar class grown in the Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia. Burley, which as a cigarette tobacco is entirely an American crop consumed predominantly in the United States, showed an increase of about 50 per cent in production compared with 1927. Maryland tobacco, a type used in the manufacture of cigarettes, showed a decrease in production this year. The prospects of the Maryland tobacco in the Netherlands, one of the two principal markets for this type, are not considered very favorable this year. The shortage of "Oriental" tobaccos is not likely to have much effect on the European demand for our cigarette types, except possibly in the Scandinavian and Baltic countries, in the opinion of American Agricultural Commissioner L. V. Steere at Berlin.

Of the cigar leaf producing countries smaller crops were produced in 1928 in Porto Rico, Dominican Republic and the Philippine Islands. Smaller quantities of tobacco for cigar purposes will probably be available from the 1928 crop of Java, and the 1928 Sumatra wrapper crop, although larger in quantity, also seems to be inferior in quality to the 1927 crop. But only tentative statements can be made concerning the Dutch East Indies tobacco. A larger Partido wrapper crop was indicated in Cuba, but only an insignificant increase for the Vuelta Abajo filler crop.

Floods have caused damage to the new 1929 crops in the Philippines and Dominican Republic, but no serious consequences are expected, provided weather conditions for the remainder of the season are favorable in both



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countries. There are indications of a better 1929 crop in Cuba and also of larger acreage and production in Porto Rico than was expected last fall after the hurricane, which destroyed practically all the curing barns and early seed beds. The curing situation, however, is still considered acute, on account of the destruction of barns. Although no definite statement can be made as yet as to the crop of Bahia, the chief producing exporting State of Brazil, numerous reports point to a fair crop! Smaller 1928 crops of tobaccos used for pipe, chewing and snuff, and competing to some extent with our dark types, were indicated fro France, Italy, Hungary and Java.

Total 1928 production of tobacco of all types in the United States and 13 countries reporting complete figures to date was 18,000,000 pounds above 1927. These foreign countries and the United States together accounted for 55-57 per cent of the estimated world production in 1985 and 1986. The American crop registered an increase of about 161,000,000 pounds. The 1928 production of the 13 foreign countries reporting shows on the other hand a decrease of 141,000,000 pounds. The important producing countries for which no estimates are as yet available include Algeria in Africa, Dutch East Indies and Philippines in Asia, and Russia, Yugoslavia and Hungary in Europe, and the various countries of Southern Hemisphere where the crop was planted last fall. Estimates are also lacking for the domestic production of Germany, France and Italy, the principal importing and consuming countries of Continental Europe, which produced together in 1927 over 170,000,000 pounds of tobacco and imported over 300,000,000 pounds. See tables of acreage and production and United States exports on pages 9 to 11. More detailed information on production and trade in the different types of tobacco is given below.

#### Cigarette tobacco

The 1928 United States crop of <u>flue-cured tobacco</u>, the chief export type, was about 7,000,000 pounds above 1927, thus reaching a new high level of production. The stocks of this tobacco held by manufacturers and dealers (stocks or Bright yellow, District of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia), as reported by the Bureau of Census on January 1, 1929, were count 10,000,000 pounds above the figure on the corresponding date last year. Disappearance during the three months, October-December, 1928, as revealed by figures of stocks, was 71,000,000 pounds larger than during the corresponding period of 1927. This increase, however, was due intirely to the larger exports which during October-December, 1928 were 88,000,000 pounds above the corresponding period of 1927.

Exports of flue-cured tobacco during the calendar year 1928 increased by 132,000,000 pounds compared with 1927 and reached a new record figure of 435,000,000 pounds. Exports to the United Kingdom, our principal customer for this type, were about 4,000,000 pounds below 1927, but 42,000,000 pounds above 1926. The continued high level of flue-cured exports to the United Kingdom accourses a special significance in view of the decline of the share of the United States in British imports, frequently commented upon in these reports. In 1928 American tobacco accounted for 78.5 per cent of the British imports, compared with 79.8 per cent in 1927, and 81.8 per cent in 1926, while the share of the tobacco grown in the British Empire increased from 15 to 20 per cent between 1926 and 1928, thus pointing to the



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displacement of American leaf by the colonial. But, as an investigation of the Empire Economic Committee (an official body) has shown, this process of substitution has so far affected almost entirely dark leaf, used for the manufacture of pipe, snuff and chewing tobacco, and hardly at all cigarette types. The Committee has roughly estimated that while Empire leaf used in the manufacture of cigarette tobacco for domestic consumption in the United Kindgom constituted only 1 per cent of the total quantity in 1927 (the rest being American leaf), as much as 37 per cent of leaf used in the manufacture of pipe tobacco was of Empire origin as against 22 per cent in 1924. The proportion of the American leaf used in the manufacture of pipe tobacco decreased from 78 per cent in 1924 to 63 per cent in 1927. It is evident, therefore, that our flue-cured tobacco, a cigarette leaf, has suffered very little from the competition of Empire tobacco. On the other hand it was helped during the post-war period by the remarkable expansion of tobacco consumption in the United Kingdom, which was reflected almost entirely in the extension of cigarette smoking. The Empire Economic Committee is, however, of the opinion that this expansion will not continue at the same rapid rate as of late, "for there is no room for such great changes as the recent extension of cigarette smoking and the widespread adoption of the smoking habit by women".

The British colony mainly producing flue-cured tobacco is Southern Rhodesia. The Rhodesian production increased from 5,660,000 pounds in 1925-26 to 19,175,000 pounds in 1926-27, and would have reached even a higher figure in 1927-28, with an increase of over 50 per cent in acreage, but for unfavorable meather conditions which reduced the crop by 5,000,000 pounds below the previous year. In spite of preferential tariff treatment, Rhodesign tobacco growers have encountered serious difficulties in marketing their increased supplies in the United Kingdom. The lack of demand for Phodesian leaf is attributed to the fact that the British cigarette smoker is not yet accustomed to the cigarette made of this tobacco, Under such circumstances the expansion of the tobacco industry in Rhodesia was far too rapid for the profitable absorption of the leaf by the market, with overstocking following as a natural consequence, and only the intervention of the Rhodesian government preventing a complete debacle. As for the outlet of the Rhodesian tobacco on markets other than the British, it apparently meets with an obstacle in its relatively high price. Thus American Consul Leslie E. Reed at Bremen states on December 3, 1928 that: "Prices for Rhodesign tobacco are reported to be unreasonably high, and local importers state that on this account the tobacco will not gain a foothold on the German market". Restriction of area planted to tobacco this year in Southern Phodesia seems inevitable.

China is next in importance to the United Kingdom as a market for our flue-cured tobacco. Some flue-cured tobacco is grown in that country, principally in the Province of Shantung, but domestic production is relatively small compared with imports from the United States. An increase of some 12/17 million pounds in the 1928 Shantung crop will not exert an appreciable effect of purchases from the United States, in the opinion of American Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus, at Shanghai. Exports to China during the calendar year 1928 reached a record figure of 160,800,000 pounds.

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increasing markedly over those of 1927, as will be seen from the following:

Year ended December 31	Quantity 1,000 pounds
1923	26,400
1924	59,100
1925	81,000
1926	·83,100
1927	45,600
1928	160,800

A leading factor contributing to the increased Chinese importations was the cessation of civil war which opened up transportation and made possible the building up of depleted stocks of leaf in interior points. The expectation of higher duties also stimulated increased imports. The customs tariff effective February 1, 1929, is merely a consolidation of former duties and does not appear to offer any particular encouragement to tobacco-growing in China. The internal excise tax on cigarettes was increased. It seems probable that the replenishment of stocks in China in 1928 will result in lower takings of our flue-cured tobacco in 1929, and in fact exports during December 1928 sharply declined to 1,683,000 pounds from theihigh November figure of 23,993,000 pounds, and were below the December takings in 1927 and 1926, when 4,000,000 and 10,000,000 pounds were exported respectively. There is, however, reason to believe that over a longer period the Chinese demand will continue to expand.

Of other countries producing flue-cured tobacco, the 1928 crop of Canada was 2,500,000 pounds below 1927, but Canada is importing the larger part of its requirements from the United States. American exports of the flue-cured leaf to Canada have been on the average of about 13,000,000 pounds during the last 3 years, and are not much affected by fluctuations in the domestic supply grown in a relatively restricted area of south-western Ontario. The acreage devoted to flue-cured tobacco in Japan increased from 8,435 acres in 1927 to 9,700 acres in 1928. The increased demand for cigarettes made from flue-cured tobacco leaf is a fact favorable to the expansion of our exports, although efforts are being made by the Tobacco Monopoly to increase the domestic supply. Japanese takings of our flue-cured tobacco in 1928 reached a record figure of over 15,000,000 pounds.

The 1928 American burley crop shows an increase of almost 90,000,000 pounds, or 50 per cent over last year. The stocks of burley, as reported by the United States Bureau of Census, however, were over 80,000,000 pounds less on January 1, 1929 than on the same date of last year, and were, in fact, lower than both January 1, 1926 and January 1, 1927. Exports of burley during the years 1923-1926 were in the neighborhood of 6-7 million pounds, a small fraction of total production. In 1927 a record quantity of approximately 18,000,000 pounds was exported, due probably to low prices following the large 1926 crop. Last year witnessed the return to the more normal condition of smaller exports, which amounted to 6,544,000 pounds.

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Maryland and Eastern Ohio export types showed a reduction in production of some 4,000,000 pounds and also a deterioration of quality in 1928. Stocks held on January 1, 1929 registered an increase of some 5,000,000 pounds compared with the same date last year. Exports during 1923 decreased by about 9,000,000 pounds compared with 1927. The takings of both France and Netherlands, which are the principal markets for this type, have been smaller in 1928. On the Dutch market, Maryland tobacco is used as a substitute for "Loemadjang" leaf grown in Java, when the latter is scarce or poor in quality, according to Consul C. O. Spamer, at Amsterdam. The 1928 crop of "Loemadjang" is described as good and of fair quality and the prices are 20 per cent lower than in 1927. As a result the prospects for Maryland tobacco are not bright, although there is always a certain demand for sound, good burning, well packed, Maryland tobacco, in the opinion of the Consul. The Maryland tobacco offered in 1928 was not only very dear but the quality was not suited to Dutch taste. It was yellowish, harsh, brittle, and of insufficient burning quality. For this reason Dutch takings were smaller than in 1927. Difficulties with the packing of Maryland tobacco are again noted by Consul Spamer. But he also records some improvements in this respect as there are fewer complaints than formerly.

Poor crops were experienced in 1928 in the principal countries growing Oriental tobaccos. Combined 1928 production in Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria was approximately 230,000,000 pounds compared with about 365,000,000 in 1927, or a reduction of approximately 30 per cent. This situation tends to assist the liquidation of stocks of Turkish and Bulgarian tobacco remaining from the recent period of overproduction. All these countries export considerable quantities of tobacco. Most of the leaf is taken by the Continental European countries, but considerable quantities of Greek and Turkish tobaccos are also purchased by the United States. Only insignificant quantities of the "Oriental" leaf are being exported to the United Kingdom, which draws almost exclusively on flue-cured tobacco for its important cigarette industry. No estimates are available for the 1928 crop of Yugoslavia and Russia, but the area in the former country was reduced by one fourth from 27,000 acres in 1927 to 21,000 acres in 1928. The crop was below average at the end of August, according to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. The area and production of Russian cigarette, so-called "yellow leaf" tobacco, which is grown principally in Crimea, North Caucasus and Transcaucasia, shows a reduction this season, according to an official report, published in the Russian Paper, "Economic Life" of October 3, 1928. The cigarette tobaccos of oriental types grown in Russia must be distinguished from the low grade tobacco called "machorka" and accounting for the larger part of Russian tobacco production. The production of the latter has also decreased this year. No figures for 1927 and 1928 acreage or production of Russian cigarette tobacco are available. In 1925, the peak post-war year, the area devoted to cigarette tobacco was estimated at over 85,000 acres and in 1926 at 80,000 acres compared with 70,000 acres during 1910-1914.

#### Cigar types

Production of all cigar types in the United States in 1928 was 25,000,000 pounds above 1927. Most of the filler, binder and wrapper types showed larger production, while stocks on January 1, 1929 were smaller than on cigar leaf. The United States is on an import basis for



The Sumatra wrapper crop, taken in its entirety, although larger in quantity is not quite as good in quality as the 1927 crop, according to Consul C. O. Spamer, at Amsterdam, based on early advices from the Dutch East Indies. The 1928 Vorstenlanden and Bespeki crops of Java, which supply tobacco for cigar purposes also seem to be poor, according to Consul Spamer. He points out, however, that no definite statement on the condition and the availability for the market of Dutch colonial tobaccos can be made until they arrive in Holland. A reduction in the crop of the Philippine Islands was reported by Trade Commissioner J. C. Howard, at Manile, in the spring of 1928 when the tobacco was in the farmer's curing sheds, but no figures giving the size of the crop are available. Floods in the Cagayan Valley did not cause serious damage to the new 1929 crop. A report of the Philippine Bureau of Commerce and Industry on "Wholesale Trade", lated January 12, 1929, states, quoting trade sources, "that unless weather conditions turn favorable to the new crop, there will, in all probability, he a big slump in the 1929 production of leaf tobacco". Little new information has been received on the 1927-28 Cuban crop. The crop as a whole, according to unofficial estimates, was about 3,000,000 pounds above 1927, but while the Partido wrapper crop and Remedios leaf for blending were appreciably larger, the Vuelta Abajo crop of choice filler was only slightly above the very small 1927 production and the semi-Vuelta crop used extensively for blending purposes, and Oriente crop were estimated below 1927. The tobacco crop now growing in Cuba gives indications of a better yield than was obtained last year when a drought materially reduced the crcp, according to Assistant Trade Commissioner O. R. Strackbein, at Havana, reporting on January 9, 1929. In the Vuelta Abajo section a fair crop seems to be assured even without further rainfall, while if moderate rains should fall over this section during the next week or two a crop exceeding that of the past two years by 30 per cent might be harvested. Too much rain, however, would injure rather than help the crop. Moderate rains would assure a second cut which has not been realized for several years. The Remedios crop was planted early but rain is needed in order to mature it, especially in the Loma and Gaibaguan section. If it rains, a fairly good crop is in prospect. The tobacco in Partidos section is better than last year, but it is reported that not as much was planted this year as last. Semi-Vuelta is in need of rain.

The 1928 <u>Dominican</u> crop was both small and of inferior quality. Exports of Dominican tobacco amounted, according to official returns, to 44,749,734 pounds during the calendar year 1927 and 21,503,851 pounds during the calendar year 1926. About half of this tobacco was shipped to Germany and most of the rest to France and Netherlands. Material damage was caused to the 1929 crop by floods and storms, according to a report of December 22, 1928 from Consul W. A. Bickers at Puerto Plata. Most of the tobacco beds were destroyed and new beds had to be made. Plants from the new beds were not available until January and February, which means that there will be only a small quantity of early tobacco and the bulk of the crop will be late. If the late season is favorable, the size of the crop will not be affected, according to Consul Bickers.

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The 1928 Porto Rican crop was less than half of the 1927 crop. Relatively few seed beds had been planted at the time of the hurricane on September 13, 1928 and the most serious loss consisted in the destruction of the curing barns, according to a report from Mr. I. L. Torres, Assistant Agricultural Director of the Porto Rican Department of Agriculture. The 1929 tobacco acreage is unknown, since many planters prepared land for tobacco but, being unable to finance the production, planted other crops instead, according to Trade Commissioner R. McKey at San Juan. Netherless, the acreage is considerable, and, as growing conditions have been favorable, the prospects are that the tobacco will be of excellent quality and production per acre will be unusually heavy. The ultimate quality depends considerably on the weather during the picking season, however, and on the availability of drying sheds. It is reported that many growers lack sheds or means to erect them and are depending on renting sheds of neighbors after the latter have cured their crops. This practice may result in undue quantities of inferior tobacco, states Mr. McKey. It is practically impossible to obtain an accurate idea of conditions in the tobacco growing districts of Bahia, the chief producing and exporting state of Brazil, as returning travelers are the only source of information and they have never covered the area thoroughly, reports Consul Howard Donovan at Bahia on January 15, 1929, From numerous reports it may be stated that the tobacco crop is in fair condition and that the yield and quality should be good.

#### Smoking, chewing and snuff types

The 1928 crop of American dark fired types was 28,000,000 pounds above 1927, and the dark air cured types yielded 15,000,000 pounds more in 1928 than in 1927. The stocks of all dark types were smaller on January 1, 1929 than on the corresponding date last year. Exports for the calendar year 1928, however, showed a decline compared with 1927. In view of the shortage and poor quality of the competing types grown in Java there is expected this year a demand in the Dutchmarket for the fine grades of the dark-fired Kentucky and Tennessee tobacco, according to American Consul C. O. Spamer, at Amsterdam, These are utilized by Dutch manufacturers in the preparation of smoking tobaccos. The cheap grades of the dark-fired tobacco are not in demand because of the decreased consumption of snuff and cheming tobacco, according to the Consul. The stocks of the dark-fired tobacco in Netherlands are exhausted, but the trade is of the opinion that prices are at present too high to lay in a supply. Exports of dark-fired Kentucky and Tennessee to Netherlands increased from 8,039,000 pounds in 1927 to 9,384,000 pounds in 1928. Indications are that production in a number of other countries growing tobacco similar to, or competing types with our so-called "dark" tobaccos decreased during 1928. Thus the Nyasaland crop, which is the chief competitor of the American fire-cured tobacco in the British market, where it enjoys a preferential tariff treatment, was expected to be smaller due to the reduction in acreage, according to trade advices. Imports from Nyasaland to the United Kingdom decreased from 13,781,000 pounds during the calendar year 1927 to 13,440,000 pounds for 1928, but were still over 4,000,000 pounds above 1926. Our exports of dark-fired Kentucky and Tennessee to the United Kingdom declined from 9,149,000 pounds in 1927 to 6,547,000 pounds in 1928, a continuation of



downward thedency started in 1925, when exports of this type amounted to 22,000,000 pounds. Exports of dark Virginia decreased from 1,357,000 pounds in 1927 to 1,234,000 pounds in 1928. The serious extent of the decline in the British demand for this type will be better appreciated when comparison is made with 1923, when exports amounted to 24,500,000 pounds. Since then, British takings decreased rapidly.

The outlook for the 1928 Italian tobacco crop was reported as not very promising last fall by Consul W. O. Jones at Rome, although the acreage has increased. The unfavorable effect of the growing self-sufficiency of Italy in the matter of tobacco on the exports of our fire-cured types has been frequently commented upon in these reports, Exports of the Kentucky and Tennessee dark fire-cured tobacco to Italy increased from 385,000 pounds in 1927 to 650,000 pounds in 1928. They still, however, remained small compared with preceding years. In the calendar year 1923, for example, exports of these types to Italy amounted to 31,000,000 pounds. In 1923 over 20 per cent of our exports of dark-fired Kentucky and Tennessee were destined for Italy, while in 1928 the share exported to that country was less than 1 per cent. A crop very small in quantity is also indicated for Southwestern France, according to reports from American Consul Lucien Memminger at Bordeaux. The quality, however, is reported to be good. This producing region accounted in 1927 for 72 per cent of French acreage. A record crop, however, of 18,560,000 pounds was harvested in Alsace-Lorraine, according to a report from Consul John P. Jones, at Strasborg. This section accounted in 1927 for 15 per cent of the area devoted to tobacco in France. French native tobacco is of dark varieties, used for the manufacture of pipe, smuff and chewing tobaccos. French takings of our fire-cured tobaccos decreased in 1928. This may be partly accounted for by a larger 1927 crop of French native tobacco. It should be noted that fairly large tobacco stocks are being maintained in France. Stocks of native tobacco on December 31, 1927, amounted to about 60,000,000 pounds out of a total stock of 183,000,000 pounds, exclusive of some 40,000,000 pounds in the process of manufacutre. Total production of pipe, snuff and chewing tobacco in 1927 amounted to about 87,000,000 pounds. A fair crop was forecast for Algeria, specializing in the growing of pipe tobacco, although a reduction of acreage took place in the Department of Constantine, which accounted in 1927 for a little over half of the total area planted in that country. The yield of tobacco in Hungary in 1928 was below average, according to the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. Hungarian tobacco is competing with some of our fire-cured tobacco in the European markets, according to a report from Consul John H. Morgan at Budapest. The Canadian production of burley which is used for the manufacture of pipe and chewing tobacco, and is not utilized as is American burley for the manufacture of cigarettes, decreased from 22,000,000 pounds in 1927 to 17,000,000 pounds in 1928. The acreage has decreased from 20,500 acres in 1927 to about 16,000 acres in 1928. The production of Canadian fire-cured tobaccos was approximately the same in 1928 as in 1927, being about 10,000,000 pounds.



TOBACCO: Acreage and production in specified countries, average 1909-1913 <u>a</u>/annual 1926-1928

1909-1913 <u>a</u> /annual 1926-1928									
	:	Acre	eage		•		Pr	oduction	
Carretain	: Av . :					rage	1	;	
Country								: 1927 :	1928
	:1913 :							:	
							1,000	: 1,000 :	1,000
0 T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	:acres:							· ·	_
10m 1 m								;	
Canada					b/ 15	5,066	28,824	: 43.917:	40,956
United States					906	087		,	
Mexico						9,096:			
Cuba						,666	•	·	
Dominican Rep. e/						5,417:	•		
Porto Rico					_	828;			
EUROPE					<u>=</u> / 10	, 020.	0.5,000	. 10,002.	~~,000
Sweden		1:				.,744:	1,687	1,232:	
Belgium									
France		7:				767:			
		39:				5,598;	•		
Italy	_	97:				2,964:		ma.	
Germany		16:				,116:			
Czechoslovakia:		·14:				,467:			14,330
Hungary		52:				.,883:	·		
Yugoslavia:		36:				.,920:			3.05 .000
Greece:		201;			<del>-</del> :	,987:	· ·	·	125,662
Bulgaria:		78:				,435:			23,038
Rumania:		75:	76:	68;	<u>f</u> / 48	,174:	40,306		
Poland:		4:	7:	<u>c</u> / 10:	8	,725:	5,129		13,890
Russia:		213:	228:	;	230	,142:	386,466	348,547:	
NORTH AFRICA :		:	:	;		;		:	
Algeria:	25:	81:	72:	;	23	,709:	65,152:	58,454:	
Tunis:	<u>b</u> / :	1:	1:	1:		265:	863 :	1,197:	1,102
French . Africa :	:	i/ 44:	j/ 51:	:		:	12,787:	k/ 12,743:	
ASIA :						;		:	
Turker	:	159:	194:	:	cg /83	.180:	127,038:	148,384:	2/80,000
Palestine:	;	2:	5:					1,376:	
Syria and Lebanon:					g/1/	360:	5,114;	3,633::	m/ 2,8C4
India:	1,057:	1,250:	1,266:	m/1,171:		:	:	;	
Cerlon:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	14:	13:		:		;	8,995:	8,935:	
Indo-China $\underline{a}/\ldots$ :	;	19:	19:				11,089:		
Japan:	72:	90:	91:	92:	93	,717:	138,482:		
Chosen (Morea):	51:	34:	41:				22,050:		
Taiman (Formosa) .:	1:	2:						:	
Siam:	26:	22:	22:	:				9,686:	
Fhilippine Islands:	154:	185:	207:	:		,005:			
SCUTH AMERICA:	;	:	;	;		:	;	:	
Columbia:	0/17:	41:	:	:(	0/ 14	,322:	28.434:	;	
Brazil:	:	205 ;	185:	:8	z/110	,000:	156,386:		
Boliva:	:	12:	:				9,039:		
Onile	d/ 2:	5:		:	f / 4	493:	9.153:	;	
Uruguar	3:	1:		_		137:	*		
rentina:		13:	23:			,635:			
				•	~0	, 0-0.	22,0.0.	-0,0001	

Continued



TOBACCO: Acreage and production in specified countries, average 1909-1913, a/ annual 1926-1928, Continued

	1	Acr	eage	1	gradelen agreemente des trapaciones recursos de la constantina della constantina del	Produ	ct i on	
ogunt ry	: Av . : 1909-: 1913	1926:	1927		1000-	1926 :	1927	1928
			1 000:	1,000:		1,000 :	1,000	1,000
		,	•	acres:		,	•	
French Equatorial		20103	30103	:	pedias	:		
Africa		13:	16:	:		895:	991:	
Belgian Congo $\underline{m}/$ .	:					573:		
U. of S. Africa p/	:g/ 19	39:	:	:	3/ 14,961	: 19,892:	24,000:	
South. Rhodesia k/	:f/ 4:	<u>c</u> / 30:	c/ 46:				14,000	
North.Rhodesia k/	: <u>h</u> /	7:	,	_		: 3,006:	:	
Nyasaland	: 7:	44;	:	:	3,017	: 18,292:		
Madagascar		15:	16:	:	,	•		
OCEANIA		:	:	;	/	•		
Dutch East Indies		:	;	:		1		•
Java and Madurar		68:	67:	!	.94,302	: 85,999:	83,687	
Sumatra(E. Coast)	:	:	;	4				
<u>s</u> /			_	:	46,278	•		<u>c</u> /41,958
Australia		2:	;	:	2,135	: 834:		
Total all count.		;	;	:		•		
rept'd acreage	:	:		•		9 9		
or production	1 470	2 04/	1 007	2 272	1 470 006	2 007 710	1 067 540	1 001 065
all years Est, world total	. 1,419	2,044;	1,997	0,513:	1,470,886	2,003,312:	1,360,048	1,301,300
ex.of India and		•		•		•		
China $\underline{t}$ /			,	: /	2,671,000	3,510,000:	3,485,000	

Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture except as otherwise stated. Figures refer to the crop harvested in the calendar year in the Northern Hemisphere and the succeeding harvest in the Southern Hemisphere except in the Dutch East Indies where the harvest is usually completed within the calendar year.

a/ Prewar averages for European countries are estimates for territory within present boundaries. b/2-vear average. c/ Unofficial source. d/3-year average. e/ Unofficial estimate of the export crop. f/ 4-year average. g/ 1-year average. h/ Less than 500 acres. i/ French Guinea only. i/ About 4,000 acres additional in French Soudan. k/ About 900,000 pounds additional in French Soudan. 1/ Greater Lebanon only. m/ Incomplete. Not included in total. n/ Exclusive of Tonking. The area is estimated at about 3,000 acres in 1925, 4,000 acres in 1926 and 4,500 acres in 1927. o/ Year 1915. p/ Exclusive of native production which amounted to 1,240,000 pounds in 1925 and 1,487,000 pounds in 1926. q/ European cultivation only. r/ Estate production including some tobacco purchased From natives. Figures for native production not available. Total production of the islands is roughly estimated, on the basis of average yield of 311 pounds per scre for the native area with the addition of the estate net production, at 192,000,000 pounds in 1925, 194,000,000 pounds in 1926 and 212,000,000 pounds in 1527. s/ Estate production of wrapper leaf tobacco. Small quantities of low erius troscco also produced.  $\underline{t}$  / No data are ravailable for the total production If india and China. The acreage devoted to tobacco in India vould indicate a production next to that of the United States in the size of the crop. China is also of considerable importance.



December 1928.

LEAF TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS: United States exprts, by types and principal countries of destination, 1927 and 1928 Type of tobacco and country : Year ended December 31 1927 : 1928\_ of destination : 1,000 pounds : 1,000 pounds 434,898 302,425 Bright flue-cured, total .....: 166,655 162,329 United Kingdom .....: 160,791 45,917 China, Hongkong and Kwantung ..... 20,050 17,247 Australia .....: 13,440 Canada ....: 13,037 15,241 Japan ....: 9,991 16,327 12,809 Germany ....: 6,544 Burley, total .....: 17,844 84,014 Dark-fired Kentucky and Tennessee, total: 112,008 6,547 9,149 United Kingdom .....: 13,292 19,423 13,465 20,769 9,280 10,027 Germany .....: 650 385 Italy .....: 9,384 Netherlands .....: 0,039 6,079 13,956 Belgium ,..... 18,695 Lark Virginia, total .....: 24,277 1,234 United Kingdom .....: 1,557 2,966 5,433 Germany ..... 1,164 2,807 Netherlands .....: 7/83 2,336 Australia ....: 1,771 111 China, Hongkong and Kwantung .....: 10,947 20,036 Maryland and Ohic export, total ....: 3,547 8,957 France .....: 3,328 5,517 Netherlands .....: Green River (Pryor) and one-sucker 11,595 leaf, total .....: 19,199 Other, including cigar leaf and black fat water baler and dark : 8,714 African, total ..... 10,463 8,443 5,617 Stems, trimmings and scrap, total ....: 583,850 511,868 Tobacco, unmanufactured, total .....: Tobacco products: 3,832 3,728 Chewing tobacco, plug or other ..... 1,134 1,011 Smoking tobacco (incl.cigar cuttings): 238 217 . Other tobacco manufactures .....: Millions Millions 11,706 7,093 Cigarettes, total ....: 8,260 4,418 China, Hongkong and Kwantung .....: Compiled from Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States,



### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Agricultural Economics Washington

F.S. T-57

March 20, 1929.

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

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#### THE 1929 TOBACCO CROP OF PORTO RICO



A preliminary estimate as of February 28, 1929 places the 1929 regular or first crop of Porto Rican tobacco at 23,400,000 pounds and the second crop at roughly 1,200,000 pounds, making a total 1929 production of 24,600,000 pounds from an area of 39,075 acres,according to a report to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from I. L. Torres, Assistant Agricultural Director of the Porto Rican Department of Agriculture. The expectation in the beginning of the season that the area planted to tobacco would be seriously reduced this season as a consequence of the damage caused to the industry by the hurricane last September has not materialized. The 1929 acreage is only 3 per cent below that of 1928 when 40,310 acres were planted. The production this year is in fact larger than in 1928, when approximately 22,000,000 pounds were produced, but it is still only a little over one-half of the record 1927 crop of about 47,000,000 pounds gathered from an area of 85,000 acres.

The Development of later plantings is hampered by lack of rainfall and the final result of the crop is still largely dependent on the weather and adequate sheds for curing, according to a radiogram to the United States Department of Commerce from Assistant Trade Commissioner J. R. McKey at San Juan, dated February 22, 1929. A serious shortage of curing facilities, due to the destruction of curing barns by the hurricane last September, is generally considered a weak spot in the Porto Rican tobacco situation. As very little marketable tobacco of the old crop remains unsold the tobacco outlook is regarded as satisfactory at this time, according to Mr. McKey.

Tobacco area and production in Porto Rico, average 1909-13,

annual 1926-1929								
Year	Area	•	Production					
	<u>1,000 a</u>	cres :	1,000 pounds					
1909-1913, average: 1926: 1927: 1928: 1929:	50 85 40 39	: <u>b</u> / : : :	10,828 35,000 46,664 22,000 24,600					
Official sources.	a/ Four-year	average. <u>b</u> /	Year 1910 only.					

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# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Agricultural Economics Washington

F.S. T-58

March 22, 1929.

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

1929 TH

THE CHINESE MARKET FOR AMERICAN TOBACCO

Heavy imports of cigarettes and leaf tobacco into China from the United States during the last quarter of 1928 has probably taken care of the leaf requirements of that market for the balance of the current season, according to a radiogram to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from American Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus at Shanghai. These large import operations were occasioned by the expectation of an increase in import tariff duties in China on February 1, which did not materialize.

Imports of leaf tobacco at Shanghai during the last quarter of 1928, exceeded imports during the previous whole year, the figures being 70,000,000 pounds during October-December 1928; and 68,000,000 pounds during the 12 months, October 1927 - September 1928. An additional 18,000,000 pounds arrived in Shanghai in January, but arrivals since February 1 have been unimportant. The stocks are not considered burdensome to foreign manufacturers and the larger independent leaf dealers, but some of the smaller dealers find it necessary now to liquidate. The possibility of distress selling makes for a dull and uneasy local leaf market. For independent leaf dealers, the situation is further aggravated by the difficulty which their customers, the Chinese cigarette factories, find in meeting the determined selling policy and competition of the larger foreign concerns. Although dealers may find themselves with large stocks next fall, when the new leaf season opens, it is believed in general that the imports may be absorbed and that stocks in September may not be excessive, provided cigarette consumption continues at the current high level.

Shipments from Shanghai of cigarettes manufactured in that city, which is the main manufacturing center, serve as a good index of factory operations. These shipments show a marked upward trend in recent years, amounting to 42,267,000 pounds in 1925; 49,600,000 pounds in 1926; 52,533,000 pounds in 1927; and 64,133,000 pounds in 1928. Manufacturing operations in places other than Shanghai were also larger in 1928 than in 1927, indicating the recovery and strength of the cigarette business in China.

Personal investigation by Mr. Nyhus in South China reveals a lighter per capita cigarette consumption than in Central and North China, due to climatic conditions. South China does not recognize the Nanking consolidated tax of  $32\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, but has its own system of taxation. Cigarette sales in that part of the country also made gains last year, but only in lower grade cigarettes. Chinese cigarettes almost completely replaced foreign brands in the Canton district during the disturbances of the past three years, but foreign companies are regaining their lost position and in January did about 25 per cent of the total business.

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F.S.

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

July 16, 1929

SOUTH AFRICAN TOBACCO SITUATION

Tobacco Froduction

Tear, accord Prospects indicate reduced tobacco reduction in the British countries of South Africa during the current year, according to a release issued by the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Cigarette types, grown for export to the United Kingdom, will probably be especially affected, in view of the small crop in Southern Rhodesia and the reduced area planted to bright flue cured tobacco in Nyasaland, the two principal sources of supply of the Empire cigarette tobacco. Decreased crops in the Union of South Africa and Nyasaland will probably also result in a smaller total production of pipe tobacco. A small crop due to a reduced acreage is also expected in Northern Rhodesia, a minor producing country. The British gross imports of tobacco from each of the countries showed a decline during the first four months of the current year, compared with the similar period of last year. Stocks on hand on May 31, 1929 in Liverpool, London and Glasgow, as reported by Frank Watson and Co., Limited, showed an increase for every country involved.

### Union of South Africa

The 1928-29 tobacco crop of the Union of South Africa, grown by Europeans, is officially estimated at 16,500,000 pounds, a decrease of 29 per cent from the preceding year. Of this total, it is expected that about 1,400,000 pounds will be of the so-called Turkish type, an increase of 12 per cent over last season. This type accounted on an average during the last five years for only about 7 per cent of the total tobacco production by Europeans in the Union. In addition to the European croo, some tobacco is grown by the natives, but no figures of native production for this or the preceding year are available. In 1926-27 and in 1925-26, 1,487,000 pounds and 1,240,000 pounds of native tobacco were produced respectively. No acreage figures are available for the years later than 1926-27, when an area a little over 39,000 acres was planted to tobacco by Europeans.

The tobacco production of the Union showed considerable growth between 1923-24 and 1927-28, increasing during this period from 10,677,000 to over 23,000,000 pounds with a resultant heavy accumulation of stocks. The surplus tobacco over local requirements at the end of 1928 amounted to 16,000,000 pounds, according to the Report of the Central Board of the Land and Agricultural Bank of South Africa for the year ending December 31, 1928. Half of this quantity was carryover from the 1926-27 crop. The disposal of this surplus is considered a difficult problem unless a market is found overseas, according to the report mentioned above. It is further stated that: "Much of the tobacco grown is of poor quality, and the question arises whether grades for which no market exists should be kept in storage for an indefinite period of time".

7-59 - 2 -

Only an insignificant proportion of the Union tobacco is being shipped to the United Kingdom, where it is used in the manufacture of pipe tobacco. British imports from the Union increased from 249,000 pounds during the calendar year 1927 to 872,000 pounds in 1928, the highest figure on record since 1920, which was the first full calendar year under the preferential tariff arrangement, when 928,000 pounds were imported. During the first four months of the current year, imports of Union tobacco to the United Kingdom constituted 78,000 pounds compared with 381,000 pounds during the same period last year. Stocks on hand in Liverpool, London and Glasgow, increased from 417,000 pounds on May 31,1928 to 561,000 pounds on the same date this year, according to the reports of Frank Watson and Co., Limited.

### Southern Rhodesia

All reports indicate a small crop in Southern Rhodesia due to the reduction of acreage, but statements on quality are conflicting. The latest report, that of Mr. Alfred Nutting of the American Consulate General in London, dated June 11, 1929, speaks of a "crop greatly reduced in quantity and deficient in quality". Southern Rhodesia is the chief source of Empire cigarette tobacco for the British market, some 75 per cent of the British imports from that country being of the cigarette type, according to an estimate of the Imperial Economic Committee. The Southern Rhodesian tobacco industry has been passing through a crisis, due to too rapid an expansion of tobacco growing relative to the absorbing capacity of the British market. Thus the area planted to tobacco in the colony more than trebled between 1925-26 and 1927-28, the figures being 13,915 acres and 46,000 acres, respectively. Unfavorable weather conditions in 1927-28 resulted in a crop of only 14,000,000 pounds, which was about 5,000,000 pounds below the preceding year, notwithstanding an increase of over 50 per cent in acreage. Imports to the United Kingdom, which amounted to 2,323,000 pounds from both Southern and Morthern Phodesia during the calendar year 1926 (there being no subdivision between the two countries in the available import statistics before 1927), increased to over 9,000,000 pounds in 1927, and over 10,000,000 pounds in 1928 for Southern Rhodesia alone. In addition, about 3,600,000 pounds were imported from Northern Rhodesia during the last two years. Imports from Southern Rhodesia to the United Kingdom during the first four months of the current year amounted to 812,000 pounds compared to 1,160,000 pounds during the similar period of last year. The great bulk of the tobacco shipped to the United Kingdom remained unsold, as can be seen from the figure of stocks on hand of Rhodesian leaf in Liverpool, London and Glasgow which increased from 11,180,000 pounds on May 31, 1928 to 16,899,000 pounds on the same date this year. Some good sized lots of khodesian leaf were sold in May on the British market, states Mr. Nutting in the report quoted above, but the prices did not respond to the advices of a poor crop. Most reports agree that the surplus available for export will be small this

#### Northern Rhodesia

A good yield is expected in Northern Rhodesia, according to the report of American Vice Consul G. A. Abbey at Johannesburg, written early in May, but the reduction of acreage planted is expected to result in a smaller output. The 1927-28 crop of Northern Rhodesia is estimated at 3,262,000



pounds from a harvested area of 6,745 acres. About 612 acres of the area planted were abandoned.

### Nyasaland

Although conditions vary in different sections of the Protectorate, the Myasaland crop as a whole is expected to be short this season according to an unofficial report. It/stated that Europeans are growing very little bright tobacco this season, and there is evidence that they are reducing their acreage. The number of native growers has not increased as previously anticipated. The bulk of the Nyasaland exports consists of leaf suitable for pipe tobacco, which competes with our fire-cured types on the British market. It was estimated by the Imperial Economic Committee that as much as 85 per cent of British takings from Nyasaland consist of pipe tobacco as against 15 per cent of cigarette leaf. The total production of Nyasaland more than doubled between 1924-25 and 1926-27, reaching 18,292,000 pounds in the latter year, the last for which complete returns are available. A considerable decline in Nyasaland production was reported for the year 1927-28 by trade sources. The only figure available is that for the native crop, which was estimated at 5,336,000 pounds, according to an unofficial source, compared with 7,804,000 pounds in 1926-27. The reported reduction in the bright tobacco acreage is undoubtedly associated with the overproduction of Empire cigarette tobacco referred to above, relative to the capacity of the British market to absorb this tobacco. No such difficulty has been recently experienced with pipe tobacco.

Imports from Nyasaland to the United Kingdom amounted to 13,492,000 pounds during the calendar year 1928, compared with 14,034,000 pounds in 1927. the small decline may be accounted for to some extent by the larger proportion of stemmed tobacco in the 1928 imports. During the first four months of the current year a heavy decrease in imports was registered compared with the same period of last year, the figures being 494,000 pounds and 951,000 pounds in 1929 and 1928, respectively. Stocks in Liverpool, London and Glasgow increased from 15,152,000 pounds on May 31, 1928 to 17,176,000 pounds on the same date this year.

TOBACCO: Area and production in the Union of South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 1923-24 to 1928-29

	Area						
Country	1923-24	: 1924-25	1925-26		: 1927-28	:1928-29	
Union of South Africa Southern Rhodesia	: 21,635	: 23,559		: 39,000	-	: -	
Northern Rhodesia Nyasaland $\underline{b}/\dots$	: 3,462 : 17,308	: 4,323 : 20,590	: 4,939 : 22,908	6,719 25,002	: <u>a</u> /7,357	-	
	: 1,000	: 1,000	: 1,000 :	1,000	: 1,000		
Union of South Africa c/	: 10,677	: 12,762		: 19,892	: 23,200	: 16,500	
Southern Rhodesia Northern Rhodesia	: 1,140	: 1,397	: 2,071:	3,006	: 3,262	: -	
(European Nyasaland (Native)	: -	: 1,176	: 4,532	7,804	:d/5,336	: -	
(Total: -: 8,488: 10,978: 18,292: -: - Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture, unless otherwise specified.							

a/ 612 acres were abandoned.

b/ European cultivation only. The area planted to tobacco by natives amounted to 16,107 acres in 1925-26 and 18,601 acres in 1926-27.

c/ Exclusive of tobacco produced by natives which amounted to 730,000 pounds in 1923-24, 959,000 pounds in 1924-25, 1,240,000 pounds in 1925-26 and 1,487,000 pounds in 1926-27.

d/ Unofficial source.

TOBACCO: Imports of stemmed and unstemmed into the United Kingdom from the Union of South Africa, Northern Rhodesia,

Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, annual 1923-1928

and Jan.-April, 1928 and 1929

	; ;	;	:	:	:	:	Jan	Apr.
Country	: 1923 :	1924 :	1925 :	1926 :	1927 :	1928 :	1000:	1020
	<u>:</u>	:	<u>:</u>	;	:	:	1920	1323
	: 1,000:	1,000:	1,000:	1,000:	1,000:	1,000:	1,000:	1,000
	:pounds:	pounds:	pounds:	pounds:	pounds:	pounds:	pounds:p	ounds
Union of South Africa		110:	27:	463:	249:	.872:	381:	78
Northern Rhodesia	) 707:		:		1,697:	1.908:	608:	426
Southern Rhodesia	367:	718	994:	2,323	9,251;	1,908: 10,214:	1,160:	812
Nyasaland								494
Source: Monthly Colonial Tobacco Report of Frank Watson and Co. Limited.								

F.S. T-60

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

August 8, 1929

## GOOD PROSPECTS FOR THE AMERICAN FLUE-CURED TOBACCO ON THE CHINESE MARKET

Prospects for Chinese takings from the American 1929 Flue-cured crop are good, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from American Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus at Shanghai. The resumption of the very efficient and organized sales work of the largest foreign cigarette companies, in China, coupled with a high volume of current consumption and factory operations and absorption of heavy stocks of leaf are favorable factors in the Chinese tobacco situation, which probably outweigh the weak position of the small Chinese cigarette companies and independent leaf dealers.

American exports of Flue-cured tobacco to China, constituting the great bulk of Chinese takings, amounted to 24,866,000 pounds during January-June 1929 compared with 54,403,000 and 31,479,000 pounds respectively for the similar period of 1928 and 1927. The small exports during the first six months of the current year were due to exceptionally heavy shipments to China in 1928, particularly during the latter part of the year, when stocks were being accumulated in anticipation of increased import duties. Exports of cigarettes were 3,205,860,000, 4,030,121,000 and 2,929,771,000 pieces for the first six months of 1929, 1928 and 1927 respectively.

Many factors point to a continuation of a high volume of cigarette consumption, according to Mr. Nyhus. Improved transportation facilities and more peaceful conditions in the interior have enabled the cigarette companies to ship their goods to various points there. This fact, combined with a greater stability of tobacco taxation, has contributed to a generally good cigarette business. The active operations of the foreign cigarette factories, particularly of the six large plants in various port cities, owned by the largest foreign cigarette company and now in full operation, will probably more than offset the curtailed activities of many small Chinese factories, which are finding the pressure of competition on the return of more normal conditions in the industry too severe.

The heavy arrivals of leaf and cigarettes in China prior to February 1, in anticipation of an increase in the import duties, were absorbed by the foreign companies. During the months April-June additional imports of 11,000,000 pounds of leaf and one billion six hundred million cigarettes were made at Shanghai from abroad. Although it is impossible to gauge precisely the full extent of the stocks in the hands of the small independent dealers, usually supplying the small Chinese factories, they are considered large and unsatisfactory in quality. Nevertheless, in the opinion of Mr. Nyhus, these stocks should not play a big part in the total Chinese tobacco import trade during the new season.

TOBACCO, BRIGHT FLUE CURED AND CIGARETTES: United States exports to China, Hongkong and Kwantung, January-June 1926-1929, and July-December 1926-1928

Period and year :	Bright Flue Cured		Cigarettes
:	1,000 pounds	:	Thousands
January-June :		4	
1.926	43,039	:	3,648,808
1927	31,479	•	2,929,771
1928	54,403	•	4,030,121
1929	•	•	3,205,860
1909 1	24,866	•	3,203,860
July-December :		:	
		•	
1926:	40,280	:	3,248,072
1927:	14,438	:	1,488,727
1928	106,388	:	4,639,470
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Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Bureau of Agricultural Economics Washington

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

September 13, 01929

F.S. T-61

TOBACCO INDUSTRY AND MARKETS IN SZECHWAN PROVINCE, CHINA

In the following report to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus at Shanghai discusses the tobacco industry of the province Szechwan, western China, and the market for American cigarettes.

Szechwan Province in western China is one of several vast areas in China where the smoking of foreign cigarettes in considerable volume is still little developed. Up to the present time, the isolation of the province, difficult transportation, and an abundance of native tobacco have curtailed the cigarette business. Foreign cigarettes are far beyond the introductory stage, however, for they are well distributed within the province and have a growing place in the habits of the people. But the volume of sales is very small compared with the cigarette consumption in provinces near the Coast and relative to the population of the province variously estimated at close to fifty million.

Custom's statistics indicate peak imports in 1926 when 1,200,000 pounds of cigarettes were imported through the two entry ports of Chungking and Wanhsien on the Yangtze river. During the troubles of 1927, foreign shipping and business conditions were particularly disrupted on the Upper Yangtze and imports fell to 105,000 pounds. One of the encouraging aspects of the situation which promises well for the future is the recovery of imports in 1928 to 330,000 pounds. This trend continued during recent months and levels close to previous high points of consumption were reached. This recent recovery is significant since it is being made in the face of a very irregular and difficult tax situation.

At Wanhsien, the first entry port into Szechwan Province, local tax officials board the river steamers and extract a provincial tax on cigarettes entering the province and all along the water course within the province are innumerable "likin" (internal customs) stations where local officials and military generals make a levy on goods passing a point where it is convenient to set up a place to raise money by this method. There are also consumption taxes at other places. The taxes accordingly are extremely irregular but are estimated to aggregate about sixty per cent of the original value of the cigarettes. The smuggling of cigarettes into the province without paying taxes and thus underselling legitimate dealers is another serious complication for the foreign companies.

Difficult rapids in the Upper Yangtze river have up to within recent years very decidedly isolated Szechwan Province from the rest of China. It is only in recent years that steam navigation with small ships

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has been developed so as to provide the province with somewhat adequate up-river facilities during the winter months when low water greatly restricts navigation over the numerous rapids. Even now the river transportation charges from Shanghai to Chungking, a distance of about one thousand miles, are so high as to greatly curtail the market for foreign goods in Chungking. This isolation has presented obstacles to the spreading of social and economic influences at work in the Coast provinces and has restricted the adoption of things Western and among them the substitution of cigarettes for the native leaf in native forms of smoking.

### Primitive transportation

The primitive transportation within the province is both slow and expensive. The difficulties of railway construction in an admittedly hilly and mountainous country have not been overcome and there are no railway lines whatsoever in this the largest, wealthiest, and most populous province of China. Three rivers which help to give the province its name of "Four Rivers" all flow south into the Vangtze river and together with their tributaries form a system of waterways over which native produce is moved in native junks to Yangtze ports. This system however, becomes slow and expensive in the case of goods moving up-stream or into the province. The junks are propelled by a crew of oarsmen and at best are slow going up-stream, moreover, at rapids and swift places in the rivers the oarsmen take to the shores and become "trackers" pulling the boats at the end of long bamboo ropes. Local officials and military men have also set up, particularly in recent years, innumerable "likin" stations all along the water routes where arbitrary transit dues are assessed, constituting when taken in the aggregate a considerable tax.

Away from the river ports goods must move into the interior by coolies carrying loads of 125 pounds on a pole over their shoulders. "Likin" taxes all along the river have become so high in recent years that for certain kinds of goods it is cheaper to have coolies go overland all the way from Chungking to Chengtu, a distance of 250 miles and requiring at least ten days. Mr. Nyhus travelled overland on this route in May when there was a constant stream of coolie traffic. The route travelled is called the "Little East Road" and was essentially a path about three feet wide winding across the country and with minor exceptions consisted of stone slabs about five inches thick, one foot wide, and three feet long laid together over the entire distance. Across flooded paddy fields the road is a raised stone path and over all the hills long flights of stone steps. Passenger travel is "by chair" carried by coolies and baggage coolies receive the equivalent of gold \$6.50 for the ten-day trip. Freight transportation will probably remain in the present state for some years to come but one of the very modern and encouraging changes taking place in the province is the development of motor roads which promise to revolutionize passenger communication.

### Production of tobacco in Szechwan Province

The Szechwanese are heavy smokers of local grown tobacco. There is no exact information on leaf production in China but the province is considered one of several important producing regions. There are



occasional tobacco fields in the eastern part of the province but it seems that the largest commercial districts are located on the Chengtu Plain. Although a very small district compared to the total area of Szechwan the Plain of Chengtu is considered by some geographers to be one of the most populous and most productive areas on the surface of the globe. It is a triangular tract about forty miles wide and ninety miles long and supports a population estimated at five million. The Plain owes its productiveness to an irrigation system built up by Emperor Li Ping about 200 B. C. and the thorough manner in which the artificial channels are each year cleaned and the system effectively maintained make the entire project a monument of a collective and community effort so sorely needed at other places and in other activities in China. During the winter months, wheat, rape seed, and beans are the leading crops but tobacco occupies an important place in several districts.

Pi Hsien is the center of one of the sun-cured districts on the Plain which Mr. Nyhus visited in June of this year. The tobacco plants develop in seed beds until February and March when they are set out in ridges about three feet wide with a furrow between the ridges about eighteen inches deep. The winter temperatures are extremely mild and permit the plants to develop a slow growth during the winter months and come to maturity with the hot weather in April and May. Rainfall during the winter months may be scant but the arrangement of ridges and ditches enable the farmers to irrigate their tobacco fields and to provide excellent growing conditions. A rank growth is made and average yields of cured leaf are reported to be more than two thousand pounds per acre. In the sun-cured district visited, the leaves are removed from the standing stalks and then spread out without overlapping between two bamboo latticed screens or racks. These bamboo racks about ten feet long and four feet wide are then put in the sun where curing takes place in four or five days. In early June tobacco curing was in general progress and the bamboo racks were to be seen set up along the roads and about farm houses. The tobacco fields on practically the entire Plain of Chengtu are among the last to be harvested, leveled, and flooded with water preparatory to setting out rice plants or the second crop of the season. Although Pi Hsien is typical of general growing conditions on the Chengtu Plain it is stated that there is more air-cured leaf produced in the province than sun-cured. Sir Alexander Hosie writing of conditions in 1904 and 1905 credits Pi Hsien district with a production of seventeen million pounds. Coolies move the crop to interior markets by the laborious method of bales suspended on a pole over their shoulders and Szechwan tobacco is exported through Chunking to the extent of about five and one-half million pounds annually.

### Forms of tobacco consumption in Szechwan

The use of a very fine-cut tobacco in small bowled pipes made of various materials is very common here, as in central and south China. In fact a native pipe of some description seems to be one of the indispensable parts of coolies' equipment. Many of the pipes only carry a small pinch of tobacco and smoking the native fine-cut tobacco means continually filling and



refilling the pipe. This seems, however, to be a pleasant social pastime similar to the prolonged visits and idling over a cup of tea in the thousands of tea houses along the road and in the cities. As a convenient means of lighting a new pipeful, native sticks or "punk" are used consisting merely of rolled up lengths of coarse paper which burn very slowly and cost one "cash" per five sticks or 1/200 of a cent United States currency.

Characteristically peculiar to Szechwan Province, however, is the smoking of the native leaf rolled into the form of a cigar about two inches long and put in a holder or bowl of a long stem pipe. A very attractive pipe of this sort but used mostly by the leisure class is about three feet long and made of thin, strong reed. The native leaf is reported to have a good aroma but a very bitter taste if it touches the lips and in this pipe the Chinese have not only succeeded very well in removing the leaf from the region of their faces but also in providing a cool smoke.

This native leaf is extremely cheap. At one roadside stand close to Chengtu six native cigars could be secured for the price of one "Hatamen" cigarette. A package of ten cigarettes cost 1,200 "cash" or United States six cents. The native fine-cut tobacco was also on sale at this stand and a portion three inches long and one-half inch square was priced at 100 "cash" or United States one-half cent.

The water pipe is also a prominent form of smoking in Szechwan, although it has already been largely displaced in the Coast cities. One thinks of it as belonging to an aristocracy of officials, shop owners, and a leisurely class of both men and women who for the sake of one or two short puffs have the time to busy themselves with loading and re-loading this metallic smoking instrument so frequently associated with China. Another form of smoking which amuses one in going through the country is a form of a community or public pipe which a boy in a tea house attends to, carries about, and invites one to smoke after being seated in the tea house or eating place. It is a large water pipe arrangement costing 100 "cash" or United States one-half cent for each smoke.

Opium smoking has become generally prevalent within recent years in the province and probably competes with the consumption of tobacco. Foreigners who have lived in Szechwan a long time recall that about 1915 the growing of poppies for opium was very rare—only occasionally in remote and secluded spots—and that the suppression of opium smoking was quite effective. Almost the reverse conditions, however, obtain at the present time. Poppy growing is general throughout the agricultural districts; as a winter crop it consumes a significant per cent of the farm land. There is a special tax on land growing poppies,—designed for fiscal purposes but certainly not for the suppression of the industry.

From the foregoing it is apparent that foreign cigarettes must meet considerable competition in this western province of China but in spite of these conditions they are finding a firm place. At roadside stands the "Hatamen" cigarette, which is the most popular brand, is very much in evidence along with straw sandals, peanuts, a sugar cane chewed as a confection, and a variety of different wares. Particularly in the cities Chinese observe a growing popularity of the foreign cigarette.

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T-62 EC 752 F

September 21, 1929

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

CONDITIONS IN THE MORTH CHINA CIGARETTE MARKET

Conditions affecting the distribution of cigarettes, in the manufacture of which American flue-cured tobacco is used, are much better in north China than they have been for several years, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from American Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus at Shanghai. On the other hand, reduced purchasing power has caused a shift in consumption from medium quality to cheap and low muality cigarettes, which may have an adverse effect on the demand for American tobacco in this region.

Cigarette taxes in Chihli, Shantung and Honan provinces have become standardized under the Nanking cigarette tax law, eliminating the difficulties which were caused in the past by the multiple tax authorities. Improved transportation conditions and better order and increased security permit better distribution and maintenance of adequate stocks in warehouses in the interior.

Economic conditions in this section of the country, however, are not very satisfactory and the purchasing power of the population is low. As a consequence, a shift is noted in smoking habits from the medium quality cigarettes, which formerly constituted the bulk of consumption, to low quality and cheaper cigarettes. This shift is facilitated by the establishment at various points in north China of a large number of small Chinese cigarette factories, which are putting out a large variety of low grade, cheap brands. The small Chinese companies were driven out of Shanghai by the competition of the large foreign companies, but at present are undercutting, temporarily at least, the market for foreign brands in north China. Some of the native brands retail as low as one and one-tenth cent gold per package of ten cigarettes, as against three cents and two and a half cents for the best selling brands of the largest foreign company.

The prospects for the flue-cured tobacco, grown from American seed in the province of Shantung, are reported as good by American Consul T. Roderick Dorsey, at Tsingtao. The production is forecasted at 35,000,000 pounds, which is 5-10 million pounds more than last year, but falls 5,000,000 pounds short of the record production in 1920. Shantung is at present the only province where this tobacco from American seed is grown. The American seed which is being widely used, is distributed to the farmers by a large foreign cigarette manufacturing company, which alone acquires in competition with other firms, from 50-60 per cent of the entire crop. Approximately 25 per cent of the crop is exported to Japan. The Shantung flue-cured production constitutes a small proportion of the Chinese requirements of this type.



F.S. T-63 19 157 F

FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

October 10, 1929

PROSPECTS FOR CHINESE IMPORTS OF AMERICAN FLUE CURED TOBACCO IMPROVE

Prospects for takings of American flue cured tobacco by China have been improved by the recent high level of activity in Chinese cigarette factories and the rapid absorption of surplus stocks, according to a radiogram to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Agricultural Commissioner Paul O. Nyhus at Shanghai. Imports into China of American leaf for the next few months probably will not equal the heavy imports for the same period in 1928 made in anticipation of a change in the Chinese tariff. It is felt, however, that stocks at present are not burdensome and with a continuation of the present good prospects for cigarette business, the imports of American flue cured tobacco during the 1929-30 season may equal, and possibly exceed, the aggregate imports of the past season.

The cigarette business for China as a whole has continued very active and at the present time the volume of sales is probably at as high a level as at any time in the history of the business in China, states Mr. Myhus. The foreign cigarette factories are absorbing record quantities of American leaf and a large number of Chinese companies have successfully adjusted themselves to the competition of foreign companies and are in the market for considerable quantities of American flue cured tobacco.

Foreign factories have been so active during the recent months that they have not only absorbed their own surplus and current arrivals of American leaf but have provided an outlet for a part of the excessive stocks of independent leaf dealers. At the present time leaf stocks in the hands of independent dealers are not excessive and independent dealers in American leaf state that their market is in a healthy condition.

Prospects for the Shantung crop of flue cured tobacco continue good but the larger supplies from this source are not very significant as long as factories maintain their present very active operations.

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F.S. T-34 FOREIGN NEWS ON TOBACCO

November 19, 1929

### JAP WESE MIRKET FOR PLUE-CURED TOBICCO

Smaller purchases of flue-cured tobacco from the United States and greater reliance on domestic leaf during the current season are contemplated by the Japanese government tobacco monopoly, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Agricultural Commissioner Paul C. Nyhus at Shanghai. This policy is dictated by the desire to improve the Japanese foreign trade balance, preparatory to lifting the embargo on gold. The Japanese market for American flue-cured tobacco is relatively small however and will not affect significantly our exports of flue-cured tobacco.

Records of the monopoly show that during the fiscal year ending March 31, 1929 consumption of eightetes made from native tobacco was 2 per cent above the preceding year, while sales of "American yellow leaf" eightetes showed a gain of 15 per cent. There has been observed a tendency away from the relatively high priced eightetes towards cheaper brands in both groups. Reduced business activity in Japan has apparently affected eightete sales adversely during recent months and some falling off in the strong upward trend in consumption of eightettes made of flue-cured tobacco is anticipated during the present fiscal year.

Purchases of American flue-cured to bacco during the past fiscal year amounted to 8,250,000 pounds. In addition 1,750,000 pounds were bought in China and 16,000,000 pounds were produced in Japan, compared with 13,000,000 pounds produced in 1927. Purchases of American flue-cured to bacco this season will be decreased to 6,500,000 pounds, according to a statement of the monopoly. The 1929 Japanese flue-cured crop was similar in size to last year's, but it is announced that the monopoly has permitted an extension of the tobacco area from 9,800 acres this year to 10,800 acres next year. For a more detailed account of the Japanese tobacco industry see Foreign Service releases T-42 and T-50.

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